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OUTLINES PUBLIC-HEALTH ADVANCES IN TURKMEN SSR

In 1949, the Turkmen Public Health Administration celebrated its 25th anniversary under Soviet rule. Much has been accomplished during the past quarter century, with the result that the Turkmen SSR now has an up-to-date and smoothly functioning public-health system. In 1928, a total of 3.1 million rubles were spent for public-health purposes while in 1949, 214 million rubles were used in public-health projects.

One of the greatest advances in Turkmen public health has been the elimination of many of the republic's malaria sources. As early as 1932 the Institute of Malaria and Medical Parasitology established a wide network of malarial and antiepidemiological stations to study the malaria problem. Every known method has been used to kill mosquitoes and eliminate breeding places, with the result that great strides have been made in reducing malarial incidence. If the present rate of extinction continues, the Turkmen SSR should soon be able to guarantee malaria-free living.

Living conditions in Turkmen have improved. Towns and settlements are well laid out, there are good sewage systems, and new city planning takes into account all conceivable health measures. The Turkmen Medical Institute, organized in 1932, plays a very important role in the planning of new cities. This institute has graduated many doctors during its existence. At present the institute is training 284 Turkmen nationals, of whom 32 are females.

One of the aims of the Five-Year Plans was to staff Turkmen medical institutes with Turkmen nationals. This aim is now being realized at various Turkmen medical schools and institutes. The number of students attending nursing schools, schools for physicians, dentistry schools, and specialization schools is evidence of the opportunities and benefits which have been made available to the Turkmen population. -- M. Berdyklychev, Minister of Public Health, Turkmen SSR.

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